



February 2019

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST. LOUIS COUNCIL 3335



The left photo shows the knights from the Nativity of Mary and Visitation Deaneries of the Diocese of Steubenville in front of the statue of our founder, Fr. Michael McGivney at the Knights of Columbus financed McGivney Hall of the Catholic University of America. From left to right are Jack Wesel, Carl Duch, Paul Sebastian, John Spencer, Fr. Paul Hrezo, Fr. George, and David Riesbeck. We pass the statue every year as we walk from the Metro Subway to the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Missing from the photo is Michael Stapleton. Timmy Stapleton and his family made the pilgrimage separately and stayed with their Catholic Familyland friends in Maryland. Other years we were able to fill two buses; this year it was only one and a number of seats were empty. We can do better.

Fr. George from Parkersburg was a college wrestler in his youth and was a wrestling coach at West Virginia University. John Spencer is a field agent for Knights of Columbus Insurance, which protects families. All profits not distributed to the policy holders finance Knights of Columbus charities. Spencer has organized the pilgrimage in the two deaneries for the past eight years or so. Usually the amount paid by each pilgrim plus donations fall short and the difference has come out of John's pocket, usually hundreds of dollars. Local Knights of Columbus councils acted as marshals. Knights of Columbus Insurance financed the distribution of signs, backpacks, caps, and headbands among the estimated 200,000 pilgrims.

Pilgrims came from many surrounding states with a great number of students from Catholic schools. Seminarians came in force from Cincinnati, Chicago, Washington, Columbus, Boston, and Newark, among others. The quality of the seminarians is encouraging. Screening and academics are more rigorous than ever while the spiritual formation is intense.....really spiritual boot camps preparing the young men for spiritual combat since priests are prime targets of the forces of evil. In the right photo a teen proudly poses with her very creative home made sign. Notice the blue KofC backpack.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR YOUR MARRIAGE TODAY? Make your marriage and example for all couples to follow, especially young families and newly weds. Make your marriage a model for your kids to follow. Your sons will imitate you for good or bad. Too often children of divorce are themselves divorcees in their adult lives because they never had a model of a good marriage to follow. Don't let lousy marriages and dead beat dads go from generation to generation. Make your marriage a beacon of light to couples who are having a hard time making it through the first five years. Now I'm asking the men of the parish to share with all of the other men their own gems of experience and wisdom often learned the hard way.

The Holy Mass to Become a Standard Part of Our Council Meetings. Since the spiritual formation of its members is an important part of the mission of the Knights of Columbus, every council meeting will be preceded by Mass at 5:30 pm. Furthermore, our Council very much needs God's guidance and help to be fruitful in serving our families, our parish family, the Church, and the surrounding community. Members are urged to attend both the Mass and the meeting that follows with supper, great fellowship, decision making, planning, and coordination. Our next meeting with Mass will be on Monday February 25.

Diocesan Men's Day of Renewal Saturday, March 23 from 9 am – 4 pm at St. Stephen's Church in Caldwell. The theme is "*The Cross as a Source of Strength and Path to Ultimate Victory Over All Adversity*". The main speaker is Mark Nehrbas, former director of Franciscan University conferences and noted speaker himself, will share his victorious six year battle with stomach cancer and miraculous healing at Lourdes. More important, he will teach us the lessons he learned from his suffering, how to confront it, and how it can make us saints. The \$25 Registration could be a belated Christmas gift for the men in your extended family. Contact your parish representative, brother knight Paul Sebastian (740-245-9404 or paulsebastian@yahoo.com) to register. Enjoy the fellowship by going in the parish van, which leaves at 6:30 am from the Parish Hall. Many thanks for our council's donation of \$100 to help to underwrite the Men's Conference and make it affordable for all. We will accommodate anyone who cannot afford the \$25 registration.

Four Year Knights of Columbus Scholarships to KofC members and their children, who will be entering a Catholic college next Fall as freshmen. The amount is \$1,500 per year (total \$6,000). Write jean.graney@kofc.org for an application. Usually they award about 20 scholarships; the deadline is March 1.

Brother Knights in Distress. Please pray for Everett King, Oscar Bastiani, Bruce Davison, and Bob Freyberg.

Activities and Announcements for the Month of February

1. **Eucharistic Adoration** - *Sunday February 24 after the 10 am Mass.* The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will conclude with Vespers and Benediction at 4 pm. Brother Knight, if you come for adoration, please kneel/sit in the front row on the left for as long as you desire, be it only 15 minutes or more as part of an Honor Guard. You don't have to be in regalia. Former Grand Knight Bruce Davison usually occupies the first row on the right for most of the time, including the all-nighters. You can do spiritual reading; converse with the Lord; and share your innermost thoughts and concerns with Him to obtain healing and strength to keep going.

The recommended community intention for February is the Pro-Life Movement. Prayers are crucial because the pro-death forces of the left have set a precedent in the state of New York where abortion is now legal until just before legal birth if the baby is not viable or the health of the mother is at risk. If that isn't infanticide, nothing is. Legal exceptions have been so broadly interpreted as to eliminate every restriction. Other states are expected to follow.

2. **K of C Benefit Breakfast** - *Sunday February 10 after the 8 am and 10 am Masses* (2nd Sunday of each month). It will be great fellowship and delicious food with a lot of love added to it to strengthen our parish community. Bring your family and friends. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted for local Knights of Columbus charities. *We need your help* to setup and prepare the food at 7 am, washing dishes, and cleaning up after each of the two breakfasts. Help to build parish community with your presence.
3. **The Free Throw Contest for developmentally disabled children and adults of the Rehabilitation Center** (formerly Guiding Hand School) is on *Wednesday February 27 at 10 am at the old Guiding Hands School at 77 Mill Creek Road* to the left of the golf course. We've been sponsoring this special olympics type event for years. We need knights to referee, keep score, and cheer on the participants. It has always been very fulfilling and fun for all as our Council awards t-shirts and medals.
4. **Recruit new members** for our council. We need new blood, real men we can count on to actively participate, to come to meetings, to take leadership roles, and to pull their weight. Talk up the knights. Tell the guys about the great fellowship, opportunities to serve the parish and community, and the great life insurance program that we have. Then we'll be ready to send a delegation for the next official induction of new knights.